

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 21, 2006 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment and Response to the Final Office Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.116. Applicants submit that this amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicants believe that consideration of this amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal. Applicants submit that thus there is good and sufficient reason why this amendment should be admitted now.

Claims 1 – 27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 22, and 27 have been amended. Claims 2, 9 and 23 – 26 have been canceled. New claims 28 and 29 have been added. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the amendments do not add new matter.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC §103

In the November 21, 2006 Office Action, claims 1-8, 10-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bialick et al.¹, in view of Perona et al.² and Koperda³, among which claims 1, 10 and 27 are independent claims.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,003,135

² U.S. Patent No. 6,671,809 B1

³ U.S. Patent No. 5,790,806

Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bialick et al. in view of Okada et al.⁴ and Perona et al. and Koperda, among which claim 22 is an independent claim. Claims 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bialick et al. in view of Perona et al. and Koperda and further in view of Alexander et al.⁵. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bialick et al. in view of Perona et al. and Koperda and further in view of Okada et al.. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3 – 22, and 27 – 29 are not rendered obvious by any of the cited references alone or in combination one with another. Applicants have amended the claims to include patentable subject matter as identified by the Examiner.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

⁴ U.S. Patent No. 6,374,315 B1

⁵ U.S. Patent No. 6,134,593

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

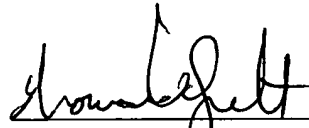
Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 408-282-1809.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID BROWN
RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP

Dated: 2/21/07


Thomas Van Zandt
Reg. No. 43,219

THELEN REID BROWN
RAYSMAN & STEINER LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
(408) 292-5800 - Telephone
(408) 287-8040 - Facsimile